

## Message Text

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ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CA-01 CCO-00 PASO-00 SSO-00  
/018 W

-----110893 301554Z /41

O 301352Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8779

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2356

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CDES (FRANK ODOM)  
SUBJECT: DEATH OF FRANK ODOM

ALFRED E. NETZ  
5615 PAGEENTRY STREET  
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90808  
(213) 425-7586

### CASUALTY MESSAGE

1. IT IS WITH PROFOUND REGRET THAT I MUST INFORM YOU OF THE DEATH OF YOUR SON FRANK ODOM. THE CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS INFORMED THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT LUSAKA ON JUNE 29, 1978 OF HIS DEATH IN AN AIR CRASH ON JUNE 29, 1978 AT SESHEKE, ZAMBIA. THE PLANE WHICH YOUR SON WAS PILOTING WAS APPARENTLY BROUGHT DOWN BY GROUND FIRE FROM SOURCES NOT YET DETERMINED.

2. AT THE TIME YOUR SON CRASHED HE WAS PILOTING A PLANE FOR PRESTON AIR CARRYING THREE PASSENGERS WHO WERE ALSO KILLED.

3. AN EMBASSY OFFICER WHO WAS A FRIEND OF YOUR SON WILL MAKE THE FINAL IDENTIFICATION WHEN YOUR SON'S BODY IS RECOVERED.

4. THE EMBASSY WILL TAKE CHARGE OF HIS PERSONAL EFFECTS AND  
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WILL WRITE TO YOU CONCERNING THEIR DISPOSITION.

5. REGRETFULLY, I MUST DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO MAKE URGENT ARRANGEMENTS. WHILE LOCAL LAW DOES NOT REQUIRE BURIAL WITHIN A SPECIFIED AMOUNT OF TIME CONDITIONS HERE AND THE REMOTENESS OF THE AREA IN WHICH THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED REQUIRE THAT BURIAL OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD

BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR SON'S REMAINS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES. IF SO, PREPARATION AND AIR SHIPMENT OF REMAINS TO LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA WOULD COST DOLS 3,720. CREMATION AND SHIPMENT OF CREMAINS TO U. S. WOULD COST DOLS 1,478. IF LOCAL BURIAL IS DESIRED, THE COST IS DOLS 2,000. THE COST OF CREMATION AND LOCAL BURIAL IS DOLS 1513. ALL OF THESE COST ARE APPROXIMATE AND INCLUDE WITHIN COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION TO LUSAKA.

6. GIVEN THE MANNER IN WHICH FRANK DIED AND POOR COSMETIC STANDARDS OF EMBALMING IN ZAMBIA SHOULD YOU CHOSE TO HAVE THE REMAINS SHIPPED TO THE UNITED STATES IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE BODY WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR VIEWING.

7. AFTER YOU HAVE MADE YOUR DECISION, PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

(A) TELEGRAPH INSTRUCTIONS PROMPTLY AND DIRECTLY TO AMERICAN EMBASSY, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA AND INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE DECEASED IN YOUR MESSAGE. STATE WHETHER REQUIRED FUNDS ARE BEING TELEGRAPHED AND BY WHAT MEANS. INCLUDE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF U.S. FUNERAL HOME YOU SELECT IF SHIPMENT DESIRED.

(B) TELEGRAPH REQUIRED FUNDS SEPARATELY AND PROMPTLY THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, OFFICE OF SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

(C) IF YOU ARE HAVING THE REMAINS SHIPPED TO THE U.S. , YOU MAY UNCLASSIFIED

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WISH TO HAVE THE U.S. FUNERAL HOME YOU SELECT MAKE THESE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOU.

8. UPON RECEIPT OF THE REQUIRED FUNDS YOUR INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT AS PROMPTLY AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. WE ESTIMATE APPROXIMATELY EIGHT DAYS WILL BE REQUIRED FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF FUNDS TO CARRY OUT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS IF REMAIN ARE TO BE SHIPPED. UPON COMPLETION OF ALL FORMALITIES, A FOREIGN SERVICE REPORT OF DEATH PREPARED BY THIS OFFICE WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU.

9. LOCAL AUTHORITIES REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH PREPARATION OF DEATH CERTIFICATES: NAMES AND ADDRESS OF NEXT-OF-KIN, AND WHETHER WILL HAS BEEN LEFT, INCLUDING EXECUTOR, IF NAMED.

10. IF NECESSARY, YOU MAY CONTACT THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THIS POST BY PHONING 50222 EXT. 143 IN LUSAKA.

11. AS FRANK WAS PERSONALLY AND FONDLY KNOWN TO US YOU MAY BE ASSURED OF OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY IN YOUR BEREAVEMENT. CLINGERMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: LUSAKAA 2356 PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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